Fellowship
PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

AUG. 1, 1960
VOL. 26, NO. 14

CLOUDS OVER CUBA AND THE CONGO -- AND A THIN SILVER LINING

The renewed cold war went into a new phase last month as the former buddies of Camp David traded invective over Cuba and the Congo. Following Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's seizure of U.S.--owned oil refineries that refused to process oil from the USSR, the United States slashed Cuba's sugar quota and, charging that the Cuban revolution was being masterminded by Communists, President Eisenhower reaffirmed the Monroe Doctrine in a conveniently modified form, i.e. that the U.S. would not permit Cuba to go its own way if that meant Communism.

In the newly independent Congo, when troops ran wild, blindly venting their long pent-up wish for vengeance upon whites who have ruled them for a century, the United States readied a detachment of paratroopers in West Germany for the purpose of protecting whites in the Congo and apparently helping the Belgians to stay there for a while to preserve order.

In Cuba, the U.S. handed the Soviets a made-to-order issue of imperialism; in the Congo a perhaps less clear issue. In each case Chairman Khrushchev managed to respond with a clangor of saber-rattling that drowned out the issues themselves. "Hands off Cuba!" he roared -- or we'll blast you with rockets. And he countered the U.S. troop offer with an offer of Soviet troops to aid the government of Premier Patrice Lumumba in the Congo.

Will the United States intervene in Cuba? Ignoring the Soviet threat of rockets, which only adds fuel to the fire, such a course could have woeful repercussions in confirming the image of America as "Yanqui Imperialists."

Such usually trustworthy reporters as Sid Lens note considerable benefits being enjoyed by the people of Cuba since Castro. Yet undeniably there is a shady side in the latter's use of repression against opponents and his reported talk of alliance with deposed Argentine dictator Juan Peron.

What must disturb all thoughtful Americans is the equanimity with which our government can accept the endemic brutalities of a Cuba under Batista, a Dominican Republic under Trujillo, or a Congo under the sway of Belgian imperialism -- and how morally hypersensitive it becomes when lesser wrongs are done in the name of the liberated people. If Cuba does eventually go Communist, a large share of the blame will belong on our own doorstep, for when the nascent revolution asked us for bread we answered with a stone.

In the Congo, as we go to press, the quick action of the United Nations and the ready response of both African and other nations in furnishing troops for an international police force seemed to have the situation well in hand. Perhaps the most encouraging sign in the whole matter was the sight of U.S. and Soviet air force planes, whose ostensible raison d'être is to be ready to attack each other, flying together on errands of mercy under UN auspices. Diplomats and heads of state, please copy!

The world is not finished with revolutions; for many years to come there will be emerging new Castros and Lumumbas. Often the stage will have been set by long years of oppression and strife. Shall America be counted on the side of vanishing empire, centering foreign policy on billions for deterrence and destruction. Let us hope the Congo events teach a better lesson in the stewardship of our vast wealth -- and provide an answer to the purported impossibility coexistence.

Fellowship

PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

Box 271, Nyack, New York

ALFRED HASSLER, Editor

WILLIAM ROBERT MILLER, Managing Editor

FELLOWSHIP is published twice monthly by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Re-entered as second-class matter January 1, 1958 at the Post Office at Nyack, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879; additional entry at Lebanon, Pa.

Sit-Inner Attacked; FOR Volunteer Beaten

Charles Helms, ministerial student and native of Atlanta, Ga., was attacked by segregationists as he tried to join an interracial group sitting-in at the W.T. Grant variety store in Greenville, S.C., last month. Two men cuffed and slapped Helms, knocking his glasses off, when he attempted entering the store from the rear. However, he was not seriously injured.

Meanwhile, a white FOR volunteer, R. Edwin King and a Montgomery Negro, Elroy Embry, both Methodist ministers, were sentenced to three months at hard labor for attempting to dine together in a Montgomery, Ala., hotel last month. Attorneys for the two men filed notice of appeal and both were released under $1000 bonds.

King, a native Mississippian, was severely beaten during four days in jail before release in bond.

Hiroshima Day to be Observed

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation is urging members of all national FOR groups to recognize Hiroshima Day (Aug. 6) by missing a meal on that day. The Executive Committee of the American FOR decided in March to ask its members who participate in the fast to set aside any money saved for the work of the Japanese FOR. Contributions may be sent to J. N. Sayre, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

Also, seven labor union leaders joined with religious, education and civic peace organizations last month in announcing their support for a peace parade on Aug. 6 commemorating the 15th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. The march, sponsored by the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, will have as its slogan, "No More Hiroshimas," and groups will carry signs urging universal nuclear disarmament and continuation of the three-power nuclear test-ban talks in Geneva. Walking from different parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, participants will converge in Manhattan's Bryant Park and from there march to the United Nations where a rally is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Meanwhile, at the Friends Center in Cambridge, Mass., a "Hiroshima Observance" program will be held on Aug. 6 at 8 p.m. as part of a sendoff for the Polaris Action peace walk, which will begin the following day.

Subscription Campaign Nets Total of One

On June 17, the editors of FELLOWSHIP made an experiment. To 500 readers, selected at random from our files, we sent an extra copy of the big March 25th Anniversary issue and asked each of these readers to use it to get a new subscriber for us. One month later, the results were as follows: one single new subscription. Two people sent in money, but no subscriptions.

We got the idea, frankly, from Christianity & Crisis, *which put out a similar mailing the month before ours. C & C's results for a comparable period were 150 new subscriptions.*

Does this mean that readers of anti-pacifist journals are that much more active or loyal than readers of pacifist journals? One hundred and fifty to one is pretty staggering odds!

If you can help close the gap, we'll be glad to hear from you. We are not asking for money in this context, except for the subscription price that accompanies each name and address that comes in.

NEWS from the peace front

Lunch counters at downtown stores in Charlotte, N.C. were desegregated last month following recent student sit-in demonstrations and weeks of negotiations with store managers by the mayor's Friendly Relations Committee. The latter, headed by a local Presbyterian clergyman, expressed hope that the citizens of the community would cooperate in making merchants and students "understand their interest and approval."

* * *

Protestant leaders in Kansas City, Mo., are currently raising funds to pay the new executive secretary of the Kansas City Human Relations Commission, whose salary was recently reduced to $1 a month because of his pacifist views. The secretary, FOR member Robert T. Adams, who resigned as pastor of three United Church of Christ congregations to accept the post, explained that he does not plan to use his office "as a forum for my feelings against war." He pointed out that his work with the Commission deals with such problems as discrimination in housing and employment.

* * *

Eighty-three Methodist ministers from western Wisconsin signed a petition last month deploring a recent F.W. Woolworth Co. announcement that it will not serve Negroes at lunch counters in the South despite sit-ins, pickets and boycotts. "Until the policy of your store nationally is changed," the petition stated, "we cannot as individual citizens in good conscience support your stores by our patronage."

The petition was circulated by mail and at the West Wisconsin Annual Methodist Conference by FOR member John McCartney.

* * *

Danilo Dolci's nonviolent crusade against poverty and crime in western Sicily received a boost last month when the Central Government in Rome decided unanimously to make an official investigation of the Sicilian Mafia. FOR member Dolci was in Rome at the time of the decision, taking part in a public debate to publicize his new book, *Spreco* ("Waste"). The latter deals with the squandering of manpower and national resources in western Sicily.

* * *

Polaris Action's headquarters in New London, Conn., was the object of mounting teen-age violence last month. Local delinquents smashed windows, harassed project staff members and threatened to "finish off the office." However, no injuries to personnel were reported.

The Polaris Action peace walk from Boston, Mass., to New London, Conn., Aug. 7-13 is seeking persons willing to "walk for a week, a day or an hour." Initiated by the Committee for Nonviolent Action, the project is part of a summer-long campaign to warn people of the "dangers to human survival posed by the new missile-firing Polaris submarines." Write: FOR, 10 Kirkland Rd., Cambridge 38, Mass.

* * *

An appeal urging American Negroes to volunteer for nonviolent service in the Belgian Congo was made by Marvin Robinson, Congress of Racial Equality field secretary speaking in East Baton Rouge, La., last month. "America cannot send troops" Robinson pointed out, "but we can volunteer to help establish the country." He also emphasized that helping Africa with Negro talent was only one phase in the world-wide nonviolent revolution.

Robinson made his request to students participating in a rally calling for registration of 30,000 local Negro voters.

* * *

Contrary to recent announcement, the FOR-initiated Vigil at Fort Detrick protesting chemical and biological weapons manufacture in Frederick, Md., will continue indefinitely owing to enthusiastic support and participation.

Persons interested in joining the vigil as it opens a new phase in its witness should write: Lawrence Scott, 324-326 W. Patrick, Frederick, Md.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please allow 4 weeks—supply both old and new address.

LIT-NOTES

Unbound copies of "Race Riot" by FOR member Alfred McClung Lee are now available from Fellowship Publications. Published in 1943, the book is a penetrating sociological analysis of the deeper currents underlying racial conflict. Price: 50¢ a copy.

* * *

Worth reading: "The American Crisis" by David Riesman and Michael Maccoby, in the June issue of *Commentary* eloquently testifies to the growth of "nuclear pacifism" in a sector of liberal opinion that has long been a standard-bearer in the cold war. "You are a Bad Mother" by June Robbins in the August *Redbook,* just out, is a sympathetic account of pacifist mother Marjorie Swann's arrest and imprisonment for her part in last year's Omaha Action project. The summer issue of *Dissent* features "The Negroes Act," a 24-page section on the sit-ins and related aspects of the movement of nonviolence in the South. Leading off the four articles is "The State vs. the Student," by L. D. Reddick, biographer of Martin Luther King and a faculty member of Alabama State College until his summary dismissal in June on trumped-up "subversion" charges.

MISSING MEMBERS

If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing members, please advise the Membership Secretary, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

Here are the names, with last-known address for each: George H. Allen (Bayside, L.I., N.Y.); Milton L. Allen (Amsterdam, N.Y.); Mrs. E. H. Alloway (Seattle, Washington); Merle Allshouse (New Haven, Conn.); John Ambler (Boston, Mass.); Masako Amemiya (Sunnyvale, Calif.).

CORRECTION

In the July 15, 1960 Peace Information Edition mention was made of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of Raymond Gonzales Jr. The story read: "The Court upheld Gonzales' claim that he had been spending 100 hours in pioneer work and Bible study..." The court in fact rejected this claim.

We regret the error.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 4-9. Conference on "Nonviolent Direct Action" at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Livermore, Calif. Write: Betty Tillotson, 1409 Ritsch Lane, Modesto, Calif.

Aug. 7-13. Polaris Action "Walk for Peace" from Boston, Mass. to New London, Conn. Write: FOR, 10 Kirkland Road, Cambridge 38, Mass.

Aug. 27--Sept. 2. AFSC Family Institute at Camp Union, Greenfield, N.H. Write: 130 Brattle St., Cambridge 38, Mass.

FELLOWSHIP
Box 271, Nyack, New York

SECOND CLASS
Postage Paid
at
Lebanon, Pa.

THE LIBRARY OF THE
MAY 13 1961
UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
NEW YORK CITY

MEMBER ACP ASSOCIATED CHURCH PRESS